

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 01830 292339Z

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8747

S E C R E T GABORONE 1830

NODIS CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RH, XA

SUBJECT: FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN DISCUSSIONS IN GABORONE

1. BRITISH HAVE BEEN DEALING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MOGWE OF BOTSWANA AND CHONA OF ZAMBIA. THEY BELIEVE THERE ESSENTIAL AGREEMENT ABOUT HOLDING OF CONFERENCE TO ESTABLISH INTERIM GOVERNMENT. MAJOR POINT IN DISCUSSION AT LEAST REMAINS THE COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONS OF COUNCIL OF STATE, ALTHOUGH DUFF HAS BEEN TRYING TO PERSUADE AFRICANS THAT THIS IS A MATTER WHICH SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE CONFERENCE.

2. TALKS WITH NKOMO WERE ENCOURAGING. HE IS FAIRLY RELAXED ALTHOUGH HE RAISES IN LESS ACUTE WAY MANY OF SAME ISSUES THAT OTHER AFRICANS HAVE RAISED. NKOMO TOLD BRITISH THAT MOGABE HAS RETURNED TO MPAPUTO BECAUSE HE IS UNSURE OF HIS OWN POLITICAL BASE AND MUST CHECK WITH THE YOUNGER MEMBERS OF ZIPA. NKOMOTOLD BRITISH THAT HE WOULD NOT WANT ANY OF THESE YOUNG MILITARY LEADERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE WOULD INVITE MUZOREWA TO PARTICIPATE. IN THE MEANTIME, MUZOREWA, WHO IS ALSO IN GABORONE, IS BEGINNING TO TALK IN MUCH MORE MODERATE TERMS THAT HAS BEEN THE CASE IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS WHEN HE SOUNDED ADAMENATLY OPPOSED TO ANYTHING THAT DEVELOPED OUT OF YOUR INITIATIVE.

3. BRITISH HAVE RELIABLE INFORMATION THROUGH HAWKINS IN PRETORIA VIA GAYLORD IN SALISBURY THAT SMITH WILL AGREE TO A CONFERENCE CHARIED BY UK. PROBLEM OF SITE HAS NOT YET BEEN

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 GABORO 01830 292339Z

SOLVED. DUFF'S GUESS IS THAT IT WILL END UP PROBABLY IN GENEVA.

EVIDENTLY AFRICANS HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT LIVINGSTONE BECAUSE OF ITS PROXIMITY TO RHODESIA WHICH WOULD PERMIT RHODESIAN DELEGATION TO GO HOME EVERY NIGHT. THIS IS OBVIOUSLY A PSYCHOLOGICAL POINT WHICH, AS IS OFTEN THE CASE IN AFRICA, TURNS OUT TO HAVE GREATER IMPORTANCE THAN IT SHOULD.

4. BRITISH MAJOR CONCERN STILL IS WHETHER SMITH CAN BE BROUGHT ALONG UNDER THE VAGUE FRAMEWORK WHICH WILL CHARACTERIZE THE CALLING OF A CONFERENCE. THIS IS ALSO A QUESTION IN MY MIND. I UNDERSTAND ALTHOUGH I HAVE NOT YET SEEN A TEXT OR A REPORT, THAT NYERERE GAVE AN UNHELPFUL PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY IN DAR ES SALAAM WHICH MAY MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR SMITH TO ACCEPT A CONFERENCE WHICH DOES NOT MEET IN SOME WAY THE FIVE POINTS.

5. I SPOKE TO MOBUTU TONIGHT AND HE WILL BE MEETING WITH KAUNDA AND NKOMO TOMORROW IN AN EFFORT TO PERSUADE THEM TO BE AS REASONABLE AS POSSIBLE IN THIS PRE-CONFERENCE PHASE. HE FULLY AGREES THERE SHOULD BE NO NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE THE CONFERENCE BUT THEY SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE CONFERENCE ITSELF AND IS HIGHLY SUSPICIOUS OF MACHEL AND ZIPA LEADERS. TENTATIVELY PLANS AT THIS POINT ARE THAT THERE WILL BE ANOTHER UK-US MEETING WITH KAUNDA AND KHAMA FRIDAY MORNING. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR FURTHER THOUGHTS IN ANTICIPATION OF THAT MEETING.

ALBERTI

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